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Search Criteria : Contributor/Payee Name starts with Rosa Cazares,

*in-kind expenditure
**out-of-state contributor

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Results : 8 records found for the above search criteria

Tran ID	Tran Date	Status	Filer/Committee	Contributor/Payee	Sub Type	Amount
4405574	11/01/2022	Original	CS for OR	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$4,000.00
4283663	09/09/2022	Original	Future PAC, House Builders	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
4244507	08/09/2022	Original	Friends of Andrea Valderrama	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$500.00
4231211	08/07/2022	Original	Bold Beaverton PAC	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$5,000.00
4163230	05/15/2022	Original	Friends of Tina Kotek	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$500.00
3985141	01/24/2022	Original	Friends of Tina Kotek	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$2,500.00
3946154	12/16/2021	Original	Friends of Lacey Beaty	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$5,000.00
3311885	12/06/2019	Original	Mike Schmidt for Multnomah DA	Rosa Cazares	Cash Contribution	\$1,000.00

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*in-kind expenditure
**out-of-state contributor

Search Criteria : Contributor/Payee Name starts with la mota,

Results : 5 records found for the above search criteria

Help ⓘ

Tran ID	Tran Date	Status	Filer/Committee	Contributor/Payee	Sub Type	Amount
4436023 ⓘ	11/30/2022	Original	Progressive Business PAC	La Mota	Cash Contribution	\$10,365.12
3830654 ⓘ	07/19/2021	Original	Friends of Tobias Read	La Mota	Cash Contribution	\$1,800.00
3753875 ⓘ	02/26/2021	Original	Justice Reform PDX	La Mota	Cash Contribution	\$2,500.00
3317474 ⓘ	12/17/2019	Original	Team BSW (Barbara Smith Warner)	La Mota	Cash Contribution	\$2,500.00
3317721 ⓘ	12/16/2019	Original	Friends of Tina Kotek	La Mota	Cash Contribution	\$2,500.00

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*in-kind expenditure

**out-of-state contributor

 [Help](#)**Results :** 21 records found for the above search criteria

Tran ID	Tran Date	Status	Filer/Committee	Contributor/Payee	Sub Type	Amount
4382543	10/20/2022	Original	Friends of Rob Wagner	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
4163390	05/15/2022	Original	Friends of Tina Koteck	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
3951466	12/27/2021	Original	Friends of Val Hoyle	Aaron Mitchell	Return or Refund of Contribution	\$20,000.00
3946153	12/16/2021	Original	Friends of Lacey Beaty	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$5,000.00
3942759	12/05/2021	Original	Friends of Jessica Vega Pederson	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$500.00
3892510	11/02/2021	Original	Friends of Tina Koteck	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$20,000.00
3851395	08/27/2021	Original	Friends of Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$5,000.00
3812617	06/11/2021	Original	Friends of Val Hoyle	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$20,000.00
3786025	04/26/2021	Original	Committee to Elect Shemia Fagan	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$15,000.00
3753318	03/02/2021	Original	Committee to Elect Shemia Fagan	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$5,000.00
3669563	10/30/2020	Original	Friends of Rob Wagner	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$2,500.00
3667527	10/28/2020	Original	Senate Democratic Leadership Fund	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
3657970	10/27/2020	Original	Committee to Elect Shemia Fagan	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
3627770	10/09/2020	Original	Committee to Elect Shemia Fagan	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$5,000.00
3641643	09/21/2020	Amended	Democratic Party of Oregon	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$5,000.00
3585278	09/18/2020	Original	Friends of Tina Koteck	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$2,500.00
3587498	09/18/2020	Original	Future PAC, House Builders	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
3589336	09/18/2020	Original	Team BSW (Barbara Smith Warner)	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$2,500.00
3574742	09/05/2020	Original	Committee to Elect Shemia Fagan	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
3558680	08/27/2020	Original	Democratic Party of Oregon	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$10,000.00
3311881	12/06/2019	Original	Mike Schmidt for Multnomah DA	Aaron Mitchell	Cash Contribution	\$1,000.00

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Persons Associated with Committee

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Committee Information

Name: Future PAC, House Builders**ID:** 1524**Statement Effective From:** 04/14/2022 to present**Filing Type:** Amendment**Treasurer Name**

Jef A Green

Address

PO Box 42307

Portland, OR 97242

Contact**Work Phone:** (503)295-1851**Home Phone:****Fax:****Email Address:** j.green@c-esystems.com**Director Name**

Daniel A Rayfield

Effective From

02/16/2022

Effective To

Present

Address

4806 Viola Pl.

Corvallis, OR 97330

Phone**Occupation / Employer**

Attorney

Nelson MacNeil Rayfield, P.C.

Albany, OR

State Representative

State of Oregon

Salem, OR

Julie Fahey

01/24/2022

Present

PO Box 12278

Eugene, OR 97440

Additional Committee Information

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Committee Information

Name: Progressive Business PAC

ID: 21563

Statement Effective From: 08/09/2021 to present

Filing Type: Original

Treasurer Name

Address

Contact

Jef A Green

P.O. Box 42307
Portland, OR 97242

Work Phone: (503)295-1851
Home Phone:
Fax:
Email Address: j.green@c-esystems.com

Director Name	Effective From	Effective To	Address	Phone	Occupation / Employer
Rosa Cazares	08/09/2021	Present	7435 SE 52nd Avenue Portland, OR 97206		CEO La Mota Portland, OR

Additional Committee Information

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Persons Associated with Committee

Committee Information

Name: SDLF		ID: 1471
Statement Effective From: 05/03/2023 to present		Filing Type: Amendment
Treasurer Name	Address	Contact
Jef A Green	PO Box 42307 Portland, OR 97242	Work Phone: (503)295-1851 Home Phone: Fax: Email Address: j.green@c-esystems.com

Director Name	Effective From	Effective To	Address	Phone	Occupation / Employer
Robert Wagner	03/02/2023	Present	15875 Boones Ferry Rd #1893 Lake Oswego, OR 97035		State Senator State of Oregon Salem, OR

Additional Committee Information

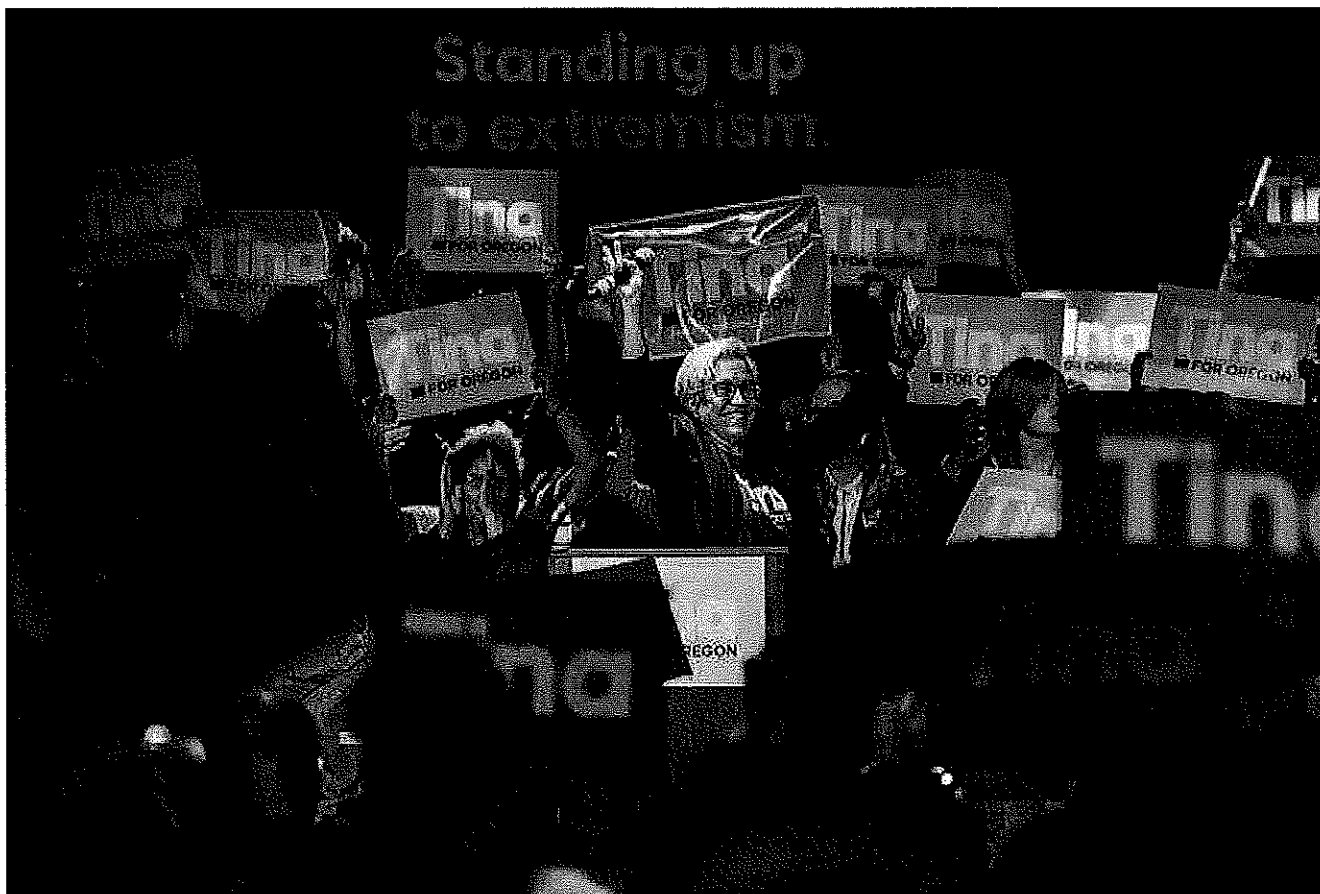
Prior Statement of Organization	Campaign Finance Reports Statement of Organization	Printer Friendly Version Print Statement of Organization PDF	History
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La Mota Founders' Campaign Contributions to Kotek and Others: Stacks of Cash

That's not illegal, but it raises questions about accountability and Oregon's permissive campaign finance laws.

Expand



PURPLE STATE: Gov. Tina Kotek on the campaign trail. (Blake Benard)

By Sophie Peel and Nigel Jaquiss

May 10, 2023 at 4:25 pm PDT

The operators of the embattled La Mota cannabis dispensary chain, Rosa Cazares and Aaron Mitchell, made some of their largest campaign contributions to top Democrats in stacks of cash, *WW* has learned—including contributions made to Gov. Tina Kotek and Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego).

That's not illegal, according to elections officials, but it is highly unusual. And critics say it compounds another problem with the state's campaign finance laws: Oregon is one of only five states that allows unlimited contributions. That means donors can give limitless contributions, in cash, from sources that can't be traced.

"While it may be legal, I don't think it's appropriate," says Senate Minority Leader Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "And I think it shows a severe lack of judgment to be taking cash from a cannabis business that is clearly troubled and allegedly owed millions to the state and federal governments as well as to Oregon businesses that allegedly performed services or provided products to them."

As WW reported in March, La Mota and its principals, owner Aaron Mitchell and CEO Rosa Cazares, and a political action committee controlled by Cazares, gave more than \$200,000 in campaign contributions to top Democrats in recent years, including \$68,000 to Kotek, \$10,000 to Wagner, and \$45,000 to former Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, who resigned last week after WW revealed a consulting contract she took with a La Mota affiliate. (All of the recipients are Democrats.)

Campaign managers for Kotek and Wagner confirmed this week that Mitchell and Cazares made their political contributions in currency rather than with checks or credit card payments, as is the norm.

"Campaign staff picked the contributions up at the couple's residence and immediately took the donations to our treasurer," says Kotek's campaign manager, Meghan Cavanaugh.

A Wagner campaign staffer picked up a \$10,000 contribution last October at a Northwest Hills home that the couple was renting. Future PAC, a financing arm for the Oregon House Democrats, says it received its twin \$10,000 contributions from Cazares and Mitchell in cash, too. Oregon Bureau of Labor & Industries Commissioner Christina Stephenson says her campaign received \$4,000 in cash from Cazares in November.



Dealing in such large quantities of cash is unusual, even for a cannabis business.

Because of the federal prohibition on cannabis, federally chartered banks have been unwilling to open accounts or provide loans or other services to cannabis companies. But credit unions have stepped into the breach, and now most large cannabis companies have accounts that allow them to make deposits and write checks or transfer money.

The issue for critics: Unlike contributions made via checks or credit cards, cash leaves no paper trail. For campaign finance reformers, that is a big concern.

Small-dollar donors sometimes give cash at campaign events, but Portland lawyer Jason Kafoury, a co-author of state and local campaign finance reforms, says the contributions made by La Mota's principals are unprecedented in his experience.

"I've never heard of cash contributions that large," Kafoury says.

"When you have physical cash, it's much harder to track and trace the true original source of funding for it," he adds. "Do we really want our Oregon democracy to be defined by people that have tens of thousands of dollars in cash to hand to politicians?"

Kafoury says cash can lead to trouble.

"That kind of system allows for political corruption. How do you know that all of the cash went into the campaign account and not into a candidate's pocket?" Kafoury asks. "If you hand them a check or credit card, you can trace it, it's reportable."

(It appears not all of the La Mota couple's contributions were made in cash. Fagan said the first contribution she received from Mitchell in 2020 was not cash. She doesn't recall the subsequent donations. The Senate Democratic Leadership Fund says Mitchell's \$10,000 contribution to the PAC in 2020 was made with a cashier's check. Moreover, contributions made to Kotek by a political action committee controlled by Cazares were made by check.)

In November 2022 filings in Clackamas County Circuit Court, an attorney representing Mitchell and Cazares in a lawsuit stated in response to opposing counsel's discovery request for the couple's bank account and credit card records that the couple had none. "Defendant Mitchell does not have any bank accounts or credit card accounts," wrote their then-attorney Richard Billin. (The opposing lawyer wrote back that the claim "appears highly dubious on its face.")

According to multiple people who have done cannabis-related business with the couple, however, Mitchell and Cazares almost exclusively paid for products in cash.

Knopp wants to put an end to large cash contributions. He says he has asked the Legislative Counsel's Office to draft a bill that would align Oregon law with federal law, which limits cash contributions to \$100 or less.

Knopp is not accusing any candidate of pocketing contributions, but he says that stacks of cash are just a bad way to fund campaigns.

"There's no way the public could know if it was \$5,000 or \$10,000 or \$20,000," he says. "And when you have an elected official who is in personal financial crisis, the temptation could be too great."



Sophie Peel

Sophie Peel covers City Hall and neighborhoods.



Nigel Jaquiss

News reporter Nigel Jaquiss joined Willamette Week in 1998. He covers politics.



Notice to Customers: A CTR Reference Guide

Why is my financial institution asking me for identification and personal information?

Federal law requires financial institutions to report currency (cash or coin) transactions over \$10,000 conducted by, or on behalf of, one person, as well as multiple currency transactions that aggregate to be over \$10,000 in a single day. These transactions are reported on Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs). The federal law requiring these reports was passed to safeguard the financial industry from threats posed by money laundering and other financial crime. To comply with this law, financial institutions must obtain personal identification information about the individual conducting the transaction such as a Social Security number as well as a driver's license or other government issued document. This requirement applies whether the individual conducting the transaction has an account relationship with the institution or not.

There is no general prohibition against handling large amounts of currency and the filing of a CTR is required regardless of the reasons for the currency transaction. The financial institution collects this information in a manner consistent with a customer's right to financial privacy.

Can I break up my currency transactions into multiple, smaller amounts to avoid being reported to the government?

No. This is called "structuring." Federal law makes it a crime to break up transactions into smaller amounts for the purpose of evading the CTR reporting requirement and this may lead to a required disclosure from the financial institution to the government. Structuring transactions to prevent a CTR from being reported can result in imprisonment for not more than five years and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. If structuring involves more than \$100,000 in a twelve month period or is performed while violating another law of the United States, the penalty is doubled.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY



www.fincen.gov



Cash payment report helps government combat money laundering

FS-2019-1, February 2019

Federal law requires a person to report cash transactions of more than \$10,000 by filing IRS Form 8300 [PDF](#), Report of Cash Payments Over \$10,000 Received in a Trade or Business. The information on the form helps law enforcement combat money laundering, tax evasion, drug dealing, terrorist financing and other criminal activities.

Who is covered

By law, a “person” is an individual, company, corporation, partnership, association, trust or estate. For example, dealers in jewelry, furniture, boats, aircraft or automobiles; pawnbrokers; attorneys; real estate brokers; insurance companies and travel agencies are among those who typically need to file Form 8300.

Tax-exempt organizations are also “persons” and may need to report certain transactions. A tax-exempt organization doesn’t have to file Form 8300 for a charitable cash contribution. Note, however, that under a separate requirement, a donor often must obtain a written acknowledgement of the contribution from the organization. See Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, for details. But the organization must report noncharitable cash payments on Form 8300. For example, an exempt organization that receives more than \$10,000 in cash for renting part of its building must report the transaction.

What’s cash

For Form 8300 reporting, cash includes coins and currency of the United States or any foreign country. It’s also a cashier’s check (sometimes called a treasurer’s check or bank check), bank draft, traveler’s check or money order with a face amount of \$10,000 or less that a person receives for:

- A designated reporting transaction or
- Any transaction in which the person knows the payer is trying to avoid a report.

Note that under a separate reporting requirement, banks and other financial institutions report cash purchases of cashier's checks, treasurer's checks and/or bank checks, bank drafts, traveler's checks and money orders with a face value of more than \$10,000 by filing currency transaction reports.

A designated reporting transaction is the retail sale of tangible personal property that's generally suited for personal use, expected to last at least one year and has a sales price of more than \$10,000. Examples are sales of automobiles, jewelry, mobile homes and furniture.

A designated reporting transaction is also the sale of a collectible, such as a work of art, rug, antique, metal, stamp or coin. It is also the sale of travel and entertainment, if the total price of all items for the same trip or entertainment event is more than \$10,000.

Reporting cash payments

A person must file Form 8300 if they receive cash of more than \$10,000 from the same payer or agent:

- In one lump sum.
- In two or more related payments within 24 hours. For example, a 24-hour period is 11 a.m. Tuesday to 11 a.m. Wednesday.
- As part of a single transaction or two or more related transactions within 12 months.

Examples of reporting situations

Automobile dealerships

- If a husband and wife purchased two cars at one time from the same dealer, and the dealer received a total of \$10,200 in cash, the dealer can view the transaction as a single transaction or two related transactions. Either way, it calls for only one Form 8300.
- A dealership doesn't file Form 8300 if a customer pays with a \$7,000 wire transfer and a \$4,000 cashier check. A wire transfer is not cash.
- A customer purchases a car for \$9,000 cash. Within 12 months, the customer pays the dealership cash of \$1,500 for accessories for that car. The dealer doesn't need to file Form 8300, unless they knew or had reason to know the transactions were connected.

Taxi company

Weekly lease payments in cash from a taxi driver to a taxi company within 12 months is considered the same transaction. The taxi company needs to file Form 8300 when the total amount exceeds \$10,000. Then, if the company receives more than \$10,000 cash in additional payments from the driver within 12 months, the company must file another Form 8300.



Exemption Requirements - Political Organizations

A political organization subject to section 527 is a party, committee, association, fund, or other organization (whether or not incorporated) organized and operated primarily for the purpose of directly or indirectly accepting contributions or making expenditures, or both, for an exempt function.

A political organization must be organized and operated for the primary purpose of carrying on exempt function activities. A political organization's primary activities must be exempt function activities. A political organization may engage in activities that are not exempt function activities, but these may not be its primary activities.

To be exempt, a political organization must file a timely notice with the IRS that it is to be treated as a tax-exempt organization.

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 06-Jan-2023



Form 8871 initial notice

To be exempt, a political organization must give notice electronically to the Service that it is a political organization described in Internal Revenue Code section 527, unless an exception applies. An organization must file an amended notice within 30 days after the occurrence of a material change in the information reported, and a final notice upon termination of the organization. All electronic notices are filed at the IRS Political Organizations Filing and Disclosure page.

Additional information:

- Contents of Form 8871
- Form 8871 instructions [PDF](#)
- Publication 4216, Political Organization Filing and Disclosure Filing Process User Guide [PDF](#)

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Department
of the
Treasury

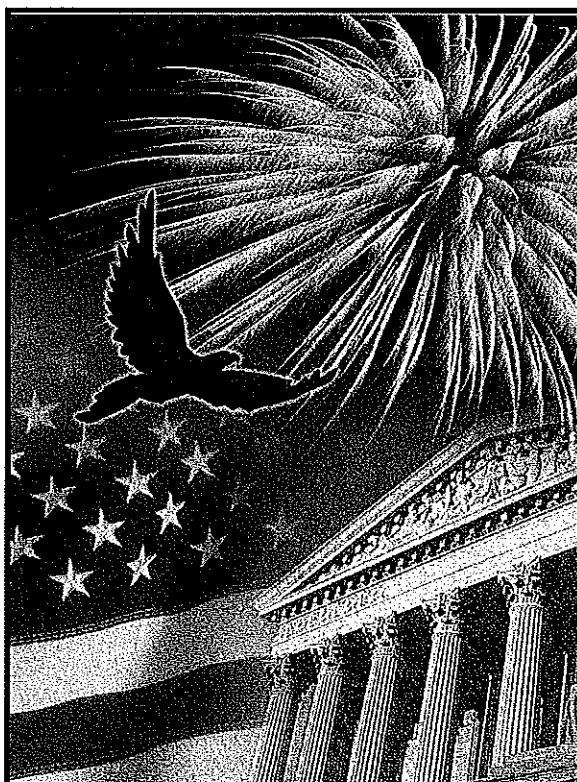
Internal
Revenue
Service

Publication 1544
(Rev. September 2014)

Cat. No. 12696A

Reporting Cash Payments of Over \$10,000

**(Received in a Trade or
Business)**



Get forms and other information
faster and easier at IRS.gov

Future Developments

For the latest information about developments related to Publication 1544, such as legislation enacted after it was published, go to www.irs.gov/pub1544.

What's New

Electronic filing. You may be able to file Form 8300 by using FinCEN's Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) Electronic Filing (E-Filing) System. See *When, Where, and What To File*, later.

Introduction

If, in a 12-month period, you receive more than \$10,000 in cash from one buyer as a result of a transaction in your trade or business, you must report it to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) on Form 8300, *Report of Cash Payments Over \$10,000 Received in a Trade or Business*.

This publication explains why, when, and where to report these cash payments. It also discusses the substantial penalties for not reporting them.

Some organizations do not have to file Form 8300, including financial institutions and casinos who must file FinCEN Report 112, BSA Currency Transaction Report (BCTR). They are not discussed in this publication.

This publication explains key issues and terms related to Form 8300. You should also read the instructions attached to the form. They explain what to enter on each line.

Why Report These Payments?

Drug dealers and smugglers often use large cash payments to "launder" money from illegal activities. Laundering means converting "dirty" or illegally-gained money to "clean" money.

The government can often trace this laundered money through the payments you report. Laws passed by Congress require you to report these payments. Your compliance with these laws provides valuable information that can stop those who evade taxes and those who profit from the drug trade and other criminal activities.

The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 increased the scope of these laws to help trace funds used for terrorism.

Who Must File Form 8300?

Generally, any person in a trade or business who receives more than \$10,000 in cash in a single transaction or in related transactions must file Form 8300.

For example, you may have to file Form 8300 if you are a dealer in jewelry, furniture, boats, aircraft, or automobiles; a pawnbroker; an attorney; a real estate broker; an insurance company; or a travel agency. Special rules for